

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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FOL REPEAT USUN 5835 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ROME DEC 9, 1974

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: UN, EAGR, WFC

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THE US DELEGATION HAS INSISTED ON  
ON WORLD FOOD COUNCIL OF NOT MORE THAN 27 MEMBERS,  
INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AMONG GROUP ARE NOW COALESCING  
ON A FIGURE OF 36. INSTRUCTIONS REQUESTED ON USG  
POSITION RE SIZE OF COUNCIL. END SUMMARY.

1. US DELEGATION FROM BEGINNING OF CONVERSATIONS  
AND INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON A WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE  
HAVE INSISTED THAT WORLD FOOD COUNCIL BE LIMITED IN  
SIZE. WE BEGAN WITH FIGURE OF 18 AND MOVED TO 27.  
WE HAVE INSISTED ON THIS POINT WITH THE G-77, NON-ALIGNED  
AND WEO'S. FROM THE BEGINNING, HOWEVER, THE WEO'S  
ESPECIALLY RESISTED USG POSITION. THEIR DEMANDS  
HAVE IN THE LAST WEEK INCREASED FROM 7 TO 12 WEO MEMBERS  
ON THE COUNCIL. AS A CONSEQUENCE OTHER GROUPS HAVE  
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NATURALLY INCREASED THEIR DEMANDS FOR SEATS.

2. THE 27-MAN FORMULA NOW IS DEFINITELY ENDANGERED BY AN INFORMAL AGREEMENT THAT A 36-MAN COUNCIL WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MEET ALL OF THE FUNCTIONAL AND POLITICAL FACTORS INVOLVED. THUS, SECOND COMITE VICE CHAIRMAN HAMID WHO IS CHAIRING THE INFORMAL INTER-GROUP CONSULTATIONS, HAS NOW SET ON A FIGURE OF 36, BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS: 9 AFRICANS, 8 ASIANS, 7 LATIN AMERICANS, 8 WEO'S (INCLUDING JAPAN) AND 4 EE'S.

3. IN A SECOND COMITE WEO MEETING DECEMBER 9, MINCON KITCHEN INSISTED THAT USG COULD NOT ACCEPT NEED FOR MORE THAN 27 MEMBERS. HE EXPLAINED THAT CLEARLY FROM 12 TO 15 MEMBERS CONSTITUTED A CORE GROUP OF IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS AND THAT THIS CONSTANT FIGURE STILL ALLOWED THE CANDIDACIES OF SOME 12 TO 15 MEMBERS ON THE BASIS OF "POLITICAL OR GEOGRAPHIC" CONSIDERATIONS. IN RESPONSE MOST WEO'S PERSISTED IN THE NEED FOR A LARGER COUNCIL. AT THE MEETING 12 WEO CANDIDACIES WERE PRESENTED. THEY ARE: US, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, UK, FRG, FRANCE, SWEDEN, TURKEY, BELGIUM, ITALY, NETHERLANDS AND JAPAN. SUCH A NUMBER IS TWICE THE SIZE OF WEO MEMBERS THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IN A 27-MEMBER COUNCIL.

4. KITCHEN EXPLANATION THAT LARGE COUNCIL WOULD SURELY BE SHORT-CIRCUITED BY INFORMAL MEETINGS OF PRINCIPAL EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS SEEMED TO HAVE VERY LITTLE AFFECT ON WEO'S. ALTHOUGH USUN INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO USE THIS ARGUMENT WITH LDC'S WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT WE CAN TURN BACK THE TIDE AND REVERSE PRESENT SENTIMENT FAVORING 36 MEMBERS.

5. IN VIEW OF ORAL INSTRUCTIONS TO HOLD THE LINE AT 27, DEPARTMENT REQUESTED TO CONSIDER USG RESPONSE TO 36-MAN COUNCIL.

6. FYI. AS OF LAST THURSDAY WE HAD ALMOST ASSURED AGREEMENT OF G-77 ON 27-MEMBER COUNCIL. THEN CERTAIN WEO'S, PARTICULARLY ITALY, SWEDEN, AND FRG LET IT BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KNOWN TO DISSIDENT MEMBERS G-77 THAT THEY WOULD FAVOR A LARGER COUNCIL. THIS OPENED A PANDORA'S BOX IN WHICH SOME WEO DELEGATIONS WILLING TO GO AS HIGH AS 54. IN POINT OF FACT IF 12 WEO CANDIDATES PERSIST IT WILL BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR INTEREST IN A FIGURE LOWER THAN THAT OF UNDP GC.

SCALI. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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